

would potentially benefit the 29 states and the one territory that have a state-wide PTAC program and the six states and the four other territories that do not have any PTAC program. It is important to remember that each state with a state-wide run PTAC program would not automatically receive a \$600,000 grant from the DLA because each proposal would have to stand on its own merits. Currently, 10 states and one territory do not even receive the full \$300,000 in grant funds from the DLA for a state-wide PTAC program. Thus, this proposal does not necessarily mean that the cost of the program would balloon. Only those states that submit a sound proposal who serve a large population would qualify for a maximum of \$600,000. Finally, this proposal would not mean that states with regional centers would receive less funding. This proposal is silent on the match received from DLA to regional PTACs.

With the criticism of recent Pentagon procurements that disadvantage small businesses, this is one way to remedy the problem. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING TRACEE EVANS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, August 3, 2001, one of Houston's prized reporters will be recognized for her top notch work by the Association for Women in Communications and the 2001 Clarion Awards at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. Ms. Tracee Evans, of KTRH radio in Houston, Texas, will be awarded this prestigious award for her documentary on the struggle in Kosovo.

The Association for Women in Communications is a professional organization which champions the advancement of women across all communication disciplines by recognizing excellence and promoting leadership. The Clarion Awards is a renowned competition recognizing excellence in many fields of communications. One Clarion Award is given in each field of communications to an exemplary entry and it is judged on quality, substance, style, originality and achievement of the objective.

Ms. Tracee Evans' hard work and creativity distinguish her in the field of communications. Her documentary on Kosovo is just one example of the many creative and insightful pieces she has created. Her ingenuity serves as a guide for future generations of communication professionals and more notably, her personal accomplishments serve as a model for women wishing to follow in her path.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Association for Women in Communication, the Clarion Awards, Ms. Evans' family, and her colleagues at KTRH in applauding Ms. Evans' diligence in the field of communications and I look forward to sharing in her future work.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
CHARLES SPENCER POMPEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of an inspirational leader and a truly committed social activist, my good friend, the late Charles Spencer Pompey. At a time when Martin Luther King Jr. had not yet shared his dream of racial equality with America, Mr. Pompey challenged the injustices of segregation with his work ethic and his passion. "If you are ever fired from a job," Spencer Pompey would say, "let it not be because of the color of your skin, or the lack of preparedness to do the job." Today, Congress must be prepared to do its job, and continue to tear down the barriers of racial inequity that linger within our nation.

When Mr. Pompey came to Palm Beach County in 1939, as one of five teachers at Washington Junior High School, it was clear that separate but equal was more of a rhetorical myth than a reality. Black students were taught in dilapidated buildings, using supplies that white schools had discarded. To make matters worse, black teachers could not join the only teachers' union of the time, the Florida Education Association. Always a crusader, Mr. Pompey organized black teachers to form the Palm Beach County Teachers Association and served as the group's first president. Twenty-four years later, he was named to the board of the Florida Education Association, which had once made the mistake of judging him by his skin color rather than the content of his character.

Perhaps the most inspirational aspect of Mr. Pompey's life was his unwavering dedication to helping youth in his community. He was the first individual, white or black, to develop a program of organized recreation for young people, working through the Naciremas Club. In addition, Mr. Pompey served as a coach of several champion football teams, emphasizing the importance of being a scholar as well as an athlete. As a principal, teacher, and coach, as well as a religious leader, Mr. Pompey taught a generation of young black Floridians to dream, to aspire, and to persevere.

Mr. Speaker, in proper tribute to the legendary activist, Charles Spencer Pompey, I urge Congress to recommit to the goal of promoting improved race relations. We cannot allow the specter of segregation to haunt our institutions, and we cannot allow glass ceilings or lack of resources to impede the progress of our growing minority communities. Let us guarantee that an individual's right to vote is held sacred, regardless of his or her race. Let us not forget the past and abandon policies of affirmative action, which will ensure that our history of discrimination can be overcome and replaced by success for all in the twenty-first century. We have a duty to all American citizens to preserve the legacy and teachings of Charles Spencer Pompey, a true friend and a true American hero.

August 1, 2001

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2002.

On balance, this bill adequately addresses our national priorities and funding needs for housing, veterans' benefits and scientific research. H.R. 2620 provides modest increases for HUD programs and activities—\$1.4 billion more than last year. These increases will help address the most basic housing needs of our low- and moderate-income citizens.

This measure fully funds VA medical health care for our veterans and provides a \$1 billion increase over spending levels for FY2001, while almost tripling the funding provided for major VA construction projects. A separate provision appropriates \$300 million for safety and seismic repairs to VA medical facilities and the rehabilitation of VA research facilities. One important aspect of the bill is the extra \$128 million over FY01 for the Veterans Benefits Administration to expedite claims processing, which is a growing concern among veterans.

Additionally, I have been concerned about proposals to require military retirees to choose between military or VA health care systems, but this measure includes an amendment prohibiting the VA from using funds in FY2002 to force military retirees to permanently choose between the VA or military health care systems.

Finally, H.R. 2620 prioritizes funding for our essential research needs by increasing funds for the National Science Foundation to \$4.8 billion, \$414 million more than the current appropriation and \$368 million more than the President's request. As a member of the House Science Subcommittee on Research, I am pleased that this appropriation will allow the NSF to go forward with substantial new and ongoing initiatives in information technology, biodiversity, nanotechnology, the mathematical sciences and the social and behavioral sciences.

Mr. Chairman, while all of these programs are funded at levels that warrant the support of every single member of Congress, I have serious concerns about one provision in this bill—a \$1.3 billion emergency designation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Designating these funds an emergency is a clear violation of our budget rules